Iowa Department of Natural Resources

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

General Discharge Permit No. 4

For

Discharge from On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems

Effective Dates: January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2008.

This authorization for discharge of secondary treated effluent from on-site wastewater systems is issued pursuant to the authority of section 402(b) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1342 (b)), Iowa Code section 455B.174(12), and 567 IAC 64.9(2). A Notice of Intent has been filed with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources that this wastewater discharge complies with the terms and conditions of NPDES Permit No. 4. Authorization is hereby issued to operate the disposal system and to discharge the pollutants specified in this permit in accordance with the special conditions, effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, standard conditions, and other terms set forth in this permit.

Permit Coverage Issued To (Owner's Name):_____

Discharge Authorization Number:_____

Discharge Authorization Date:_____

Part I. Coverage Under This Permit

A. Permit Area.

This permit covers all the areas of the State of Iowa.

B. Eligibility.

1. This permit covers the discharge from any On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System constructed in accordance with 567 IAC Chapter 69 which is not absorbed underground into the soil but discharges to the surface of the ground, into surface waters or into an underground drainage tile.

2. Limitations on Coverage. This permit does not cover the following types of discharges:

a) Discharge from any system which does not meet the minimum construction standards described in 567 IAC Chapter 69.

b) Any non-domestic wastewater discharge such as a car wash, autobody shop, or other source of industrial wastewater.

c) Any onsite system with a currently effective individual NPDES permit.

3. Exclusions. The following on-site wastewater discharges do not require a permit:

Any onsite system which does not discharge to the surface of the ground, to a surface water, or to a subsurface tile line. Such systems include soil absorption trenches, mound systems, drip irrigation systems, or any other system with subsurface absorption.

C. Requiring An Individual Permit.

1. The department may require any person authorized to discharge under this permit to apply for and obtain an individual NPDES permit. When the Department notifies a discharger to apply for an individual permit, a deadline, not longer than one year, will be established for submitting the application. If a person fails to submit an individual NPDES permit application by the deadline established by the Department under this paragraph, the applicability of this general permit to the NPDES permittee is automatically terminated at the end of the day specified for the application submittal.

2. Any person authorized to discharge by this permit may apply for an individual permit from the Department. The application for an individual permit shall include DNR Form 30 (542-3220) and all applicable fees and shall be submitted to the Department in accordance with subrule 567 IAC 64.3(4)(a).

3. When an individual NPDES permit is issued to a discharger, the applicability of this permit to the individual NPDES permit applicant is automatically terminated on the issuance date of the individual permit. When an individual NPDES permit is denied to a person for a discharge otherwise subject to permit, the applicability of this permit to the individual NPDES permit applicant is automatically terminated on the date of such denial, unless otherwise specified by the Department.

D. Authorization.

1. Owners of on-site wastewater systems which propose to have a discharge must submit a complete Notice of Intent (NOI) in accordance with the requirements of Part II of this permit to be authorized to discharge under this general permit.

2. Unless notified by the Department to the contrary, owners who submit such notification are authorized to discharge effluent from a treatment system constructed in accordance with IAC 567 Chapter 69 under terms and conditions of this permit. Upon review of the NOI, the Department may deny coverage under this permit and require submittal of an application for an individual NPDES permit.

E. Reauthorization.

The permit will be reauthorized and reissued after the expiration date of this permit. Permittees will be notified of the requirements for continuing permit coverage when the permit is reauthorized.

Part II. Notice of Intent Requirements

A. Deadlines for Notification.

1. The Notice of Intent shall be filed with the Department when the construction permit is issued by the local administrative authority.

2. A copy of the NOI must also be filed with the local administrative authority.

B. Failure to Notify.

Owners who fail to notify the Department of their intent to be covered by this permit, and who discharge pollutants to waters of the state without an NPDES permit, are in violation of the Clean Water Act and the Code of Iowa.

C. Contents of the Notice of Intent.

A complete Notice of Intent shall include DNR Form 542-1541, signed in accordance with Part IV.C. of this permit. The information on the form shall include the following:

1. The owner’s name, address, and telephone number.

2. The location of the system. Location shall be provided as ¼, ¼, ¼ Section, Township, Range, and County in which the system discharges, or as the GPS coordinates and County.

3. The type of secondary treatment system from which the discharge originates (i.e. sand filter, mechanical/aerobic, peat filter, textile filter, waste stabilization pond, constructed wetland).

4. A certification that the terms and conditions of the general permit will be met.

5. Certification that the system will be constructed in conformance with the requirements of IAC 567 Chapter 69.

D. Where to Submit.

The Notice of Intent must be filed with the Department at the following address (or as directed by the Department) and the local administrative authority when applying for a construction permit.

Water Supply Section
Department of Natural Resources
401 SW 7th St., Suite M
Des Moines, IA 50309-4611

Part III. Compliance Requirements

A. Compliance.

The system owner shall be responsible for assuring that compliance with the monitoring requirements of this permit, as specified in Part III. C., is being met. The system's effluent shall meet the effluent quality limits of this permit at all times.

B. Effluent Sampling.

All systems shall be required to have effluent sampling conducted. Beginning January 1, 2005, only a "qualified sampler" shall conduct effluent sampling for compliance monitoring. "Qualified samplers" shall be one of the following:

1. A county environmental health staff person;

2. An Iowa-certified wastewater treatment operator; or

3. An individual who has received training approved by the Department to conduct effluent sampling.

C. Sampling Frequency and Testing Parameters.

The required sampling frequency is based on the category of secondary wastewater treatment system, as follows:

1. Twice-yearly sampling. Effluent from individual mechanical/aerobic systems, multiple-pass filtration systems (e.g. recirculating sand filters, recirculating textile filters, recirculating foam filters), aquatic systems (e.g. constructed wetlands and waste stabilization ponds), and free access sand filters, shall be sampled and tested no less than twice a year at six-month intervals for Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD5) and *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) (where applicable), and once a year in the spring for total suspended solids (TSS). *E. coli* tests shall only be required where effluent discharges into (directly or within one mile up gradient of the shoreline of) a Class "A1", Class "A2", Class "A3", or a Class "C" water, as determined by the local administrative authority.

2. Yearly sampling. Effluent from single-pass, packed-bed filtration systems (subsurface sand filters, peat filters, and other single-pass packed-bed filters) shall be sampled no less than once a year at a twelve-month interval. All samples shall be tested for CBOD5, TSS, and, where effluent discharges into (directly or within one mile up gradient of the shoreline of) a Class "A1", Class "A2", Class "A3", or a Class "C" water (as determined by the local administrative authority), *E. coli*.

3. Effluent quality limits are as follows:

Effluents Discharging To	*E. coli* cfu/100 mL	CBOD5 mg/L	TSS mg/L
Class “A1”, “A2”, “A3”, and “C” waters*	235	25	25
All other water use classifications	no limit	25	25

*where the point of discharge is into (directly or within one mile up gradient of the shoreline of) a Class "A1", Class "A2", Class "A3", or a Class "C" water, as determined by the local administrative authority.

D. Sampling Location and Procedure:

1. Effluent samples must be collected from an approved sampling port or from the end of the discharge pipe (if accessible) following the final treatment component of the system. If the system is not discharging at time of sampling, but appears to have been discharging, water must be added to the system to create a discharge. If there is no evidence of a discharge from the system within the previous six months, only a physical inspection of the discharge area for any signs of surfacing effluent is required. If no sample was collected, a brief inspection report must be submitted to the local administrative authority and to the Department explaining why no sample was collected.

2. Effluent samples must be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the Department. A list of certified laboratories is available from the Department or the local administrative authority. Sample containers provided by the laboratory must be used for the sample. The sample must be collected from a free falling effluent pipe or sampling port where the effluent is flowing. Samples shall not be taken from a pooled location. To collect the

sample, the sample container must be held in the flowing effluent stream, must be filled and emptied twice, then must be filled again with the sample. Samples must be cooled to 4 degrees C (38 degrees F) immediately after collection and be maintained at this temperature during transport to the laboratory. (Packing the sample in ice is satisfactory). The laboratory must receive samples within one day (24 hours) of collection.

E. Reporting of Sample Results and Repeat Sampling:

The permittee must submit all required sample test results to the Department and to the local administrative authority. All required sample test results must also be sent to the maintenance contractor, if applicable.

If a sample does not meet the effluent limits, an investigation into the potential causes of the problem must be initiated, and a repeat sample must be taken within 30 days for the specific parameter that was out of compliance. If three consecutive samples do not meet the effluent limits, corrective action must be taken to bring the system into compliance.

Part IV. Standard Permit Conditions.

A. Duty to Comply.

The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Code of Iowa and the Clean Water Act and is grounds for enforcement action, termination of coverage under this general permit, or for denial of a request for coverage under a reissued general permit.

B. Duty to Provide Information.

The permittee shall furnish to the Department or to the local administrative authority any information relative to the construction, operation or maintenance of this facility, including effluent sample test results, within the time period specified by the Department.

C. Signatory Requirements.

1. Notices of Intent for this permit shall be signed by the owner of the system.

2. If the owner is not an individual, the person signing the NOI shall be as follows:

a) *Corporations.* In the case of corporations, a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice-president.

b) *Partnerships.* In the case of a partnership, a general partner.

c) *Sole proprietorships.* In the case of a sole proprietorship, the proprietor.

D. Severability.

If any provision or application of any provision to any circumstances is found to be invalid by this Department or by a court of law, all other provisions and conditions shall remain effective.

E. Transfers.

This permit is not transferable. In the event of a property transfer, the permit holder is responsible for notifying the Department of his or her intent to terminate the permit. The new property owner must submit a new Notice of Intent to qualify for this general permit. Failure to do so may result in the new owner being required to apply for and obtain an individual NPDES permit, as stated in Part I paragraph C.

F. Monitoring Records.

1. The permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information required by this permit for a period of three years.

2. The records of monitoring information shall include:
a. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurement;

b. The name of the individual who performed the sampling or measurement;

c. The date analyses were performed;

d. The name of the laboratory that performed the analyses; and,

e. The results of the analyses.

Part V. Definitions.

"*Administrative Authority"* means the local (county) or regional Board of Health authorized under Code of Iowa 455B.172 to regulate On-site wastewater systems.

"*Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD5)*" means a five-day measurement of the amount of oxygen used by microorganisms in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter.

"Class 'A1' water," also referred to as a primary contact recreational use water, means waters in which recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard. Such activities would include, but not be limited to, swimming, diving, water skiing, and water contact recreational canoeing.

"Class 'A2' water," also referred to as a secondary contact recreational use water, means waters in which recreational or other uses may result in contact with the water that is either incidental or accidental. Such uses include fishing, commercial and recreational boating, any limited contact incidental to shoreline activities and activities in which users do not swim or float in the water body while on a boating activity.

"Class 'A3' water," also referred to as a children's recreational use water, means waters in which recreational uses by children are common. Such waters are water bodies having definite

banks and bed with visible evidence of the flow or occurrence of water. This type of use would primarily occur in urban or residential areas.

"*Class 'C' water*," also referred to as a "drinking water" river or lake, means waters designated by the Department for protection as a raw water source for a drinking water supply system.

"*Department*" means the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Iowa.

"On-site wastewater treatment and disposal system" means all equipment and devices necessary for proper conduction, collection, storage, treatment, and disposal of wastewater from a dwelling or other facility serving the equivalent of 15 persons (1500 gpd) or less. This includes domestic waste whether residential or non-residential but does not include industrial waste of any flow rate. Included within the scope of this definition are building sewers, septic tanks, subsurface absorption systems, mound systems, subsurface sand filters, gravelless systems, open sand filters, constructed wetlands and individual mechanical/aerobic wastewater treatment systems.

"Qualified sampler" means one of the following persons, for the purposes of collecting compliance effluent samples required under NPDES General Discharge Permit No. 4: a Department staff person, a county environmental health staff person, an Iowa-certified wastewater treatment operator, or an individual who has received training approved by the Department to conduct effluent sampling.